

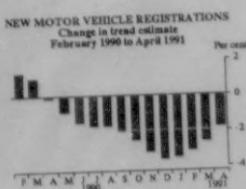
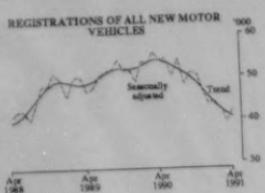
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 13 June 1991

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New vehicle registrations rise in April, but trend still falling



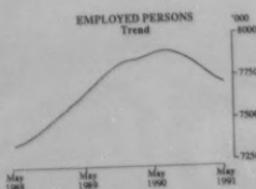
In seasonally adjusted terms, new motor vehicle registrations for April 1991 increased by 8.2 per cent from March 1991, associated with a rise of 0.9 per cent in unadjusted registrations. However, this increase was not sufficient to change the direction of the trend; the trend estimate for total registrations fell by 1.8 per cent in April, continuing the decline since April 1990.

The rate of decline in the trend estimate has decreased in successive months since the 3.6 per cent fall in December 1990. As the graph lower left shows, the fall of 1.8 per cent in April followed falls of 2.6 per cent in March, 3.1 per cent in February and 3.5 per cent in January.

Of the five local vehicle manufacturers, Ford, Mitsubishi and Nissan all had increases in registrations during April. Ford increased by 14.1 per cent to 7,465, Mitsubishi rose by 4.3 per cent to 3,213 and Nissan was up by 13.8 per cent to 3,761 vehicles. On the other hand, Holden fell by 14.0 per cent to 5,636 while Toyota dropped by 1.8 per cent to 5,852. Registrations of imported small cars remained steady except for Hyundai which recorded a fall of 23.7 per cent to 646 vehicles and Mazda which fell by 12.2 per cent to 1,366 registrations.

For further information, order the publication Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia (9303.0), or contact Kevin Yeaton on (06) 252 6255.

Employment steadies as unemployment falls



A small rise in seasonally adjusted full-time employment in May 1991 halted the series of falls since December 1990. Overall however, employment declined, due to a fall in part-time employment. Falls were also recorded in the number of persons unemployed, and in the unemployment rate following four months of rises. Lower employment and unemployment resulted in a reduced participation rate.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons fell by 6,000 to 7,715,000. Full-time employment rose by 5,400 to 6,001,800, the first rise recorded since December 1990. For males, full-time employment rose by 9,600 while for females, full-time employment fell by 4,200. Part-time employment fell to 1,713,100 with falls of 6,900 in males employed part time and 4,500 in females employed part time.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons fell to 803,600. The estimated number of males seeking full-time work fell by 24,900; the number of males seeking part-time work fell by 6,100; and the number of females seeking part-time work fell by 11,600. Overall, male unemployment fell by 31,000 to 483,300 while female unemployment fell by 9,400 to 320,300.

The unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, for May 1991 fell to 9.4 per cent. For males, the unemployment rate fell by 0.6 percentage points to 9.7 per cent. For females, the rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 9.0 per cent.

Continued ...

In May 1991, the seasonally adjusted labour force participation rate fell to 63.2 per cent. The male participation rate fell by 0.5 percentage points to 74.8 per cent, equal to the lowest level recorded by the survey in November 1987. The female participation rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 51.9 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Unemployment rate — per cent —	Participation rate — per cent —
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total		
	— '000 —				
1991 —					
January	6,157.4	1,665.8	7,823.2	712.1	8.3
February	6,065.2	1,727.4	7,792.5	738.3	8.7
March	6,007.5	1,702.6	7,710.1	777.1	9.2
April	5,996.4	1,724.6	7,721.0	844.0	9.9
May	6,001.8	1,713.1	7,715.0	803.6	9.4

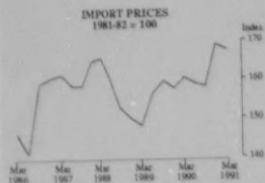
For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0)*, or contact Don Clark (06) 252 6525.

Oil prices lower import price index

The Import Price Index fell by 0.8 per cent in the March quarter of 1991.

The decrease was mainly due to falling world oil prices following the large increases during the previous quarter.

Partly offsetting the effects of oil prices in the March quarter were increased prices for a number of other components of the index, in particular machinery and transport equipment, and chemicals.



IMPORT PRICES, MARCH QUARTER 1991

Selected items	Percentage change	
	From previous quarter	From corresponding quarter of previous year
Mineral fuels	-19.4	13.9
Machinery and transport equipment	1.3	4.8
Miscellaneous manufactured goods	0.7	4.1
Chemicals	5.1	3.5
Manufactured goods	1.2	2.9
Food and live animals	0.3	1.9
Crude materials	-1.0	-1.9
All items	-0.8	4.4

The value of the Australian dollar fluctuated during the March quarter with the effect of exchange rate movement contributing to both upward and downward price changes.

For further information, order the publication *Import Price Index, Australia (6414.0)*, or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

Road freight movement down



Total interstate road freight moved by major operators during March quarter 1991 was 4.1 per cent lower than in December quarter 1990. This drop is less than, but still in line with, the trend in recent years where the March quarter figures typically were lower than those reported in the previous December quarters.

Decreases in freight originating and received were recorded in most major centres. A significant number of enterprises indicated that the economic downturn resulted in lower tonnage moved this quarter.

INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT, MARCH QUARTER 1991

	Road freight originating		Road freight received	
	'000 tonnes	Percentage change on previous quarter	'000 tonnes	Percentage change on previous quarter
Sydney	764	-14.1	1,051	18.7
Melbourne	969	9.6	835	-13.5
Brisbane	312	-16.5	442	-11.2
Adelaide	327	-16.1	363	-10.9
Perth	67	-13.0	90	-10.3
Canberra	33	-7.2	110	-25.8
Other	1,047	2.8	628	-5.3
Total	3,519	-4.1	3,519	-4.1

For further information, order the publication *Interstate Road Freight Movement, Australia (9214.0)*, or contact Choon Looi on (06) 252 5458.

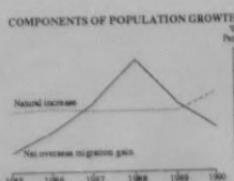
Higher fertility holds up population growth in 1990

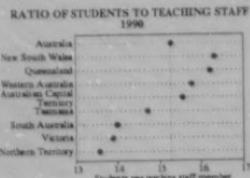
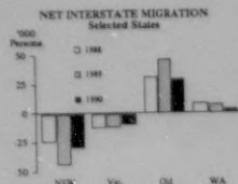
The estimated resident population of Australia at 31 December 1990 was 17,210,800, an increase of 62,800 in the December quarter and 254,000 since December 1989. The national growth rate for the calendar year was 1.50 per cent, a small decrease from the 1.56 per cent growth rate for 1989.

In 1990 natural increase contributed substantially more to population growth than net overseas migration, reversing the trend of the previous three years. This was due to both a rise in natural increase (up 13%) and a reduction in net overseas migration (down 16%) in 1990.

The rise in natural increase is a significant change from the very stable levels of previous years and is due to a 5 per cent increase in live births and a 3 per cent fall in deaths. The total fertility rate, estimated at 1.91 for 1990, was the highest since 1983. The much lower net gain from overseas migration arose from a 15 per cent increase in permanent and long term departures and a 2 per cent decrease in such arrivals.

The Australian Capital Territory had the highest population growth rate during 1990 (2.5%), followed by Queensland (2.3%) and Western Australia (2.2%). Growth rates below the 1.5 per cent national average occurred in Victoria (1.3%), the Northern Territory (1.2%), New South Wales (1.1%), South Australia (1.1%) and Tasmania (1.1%). *Continued ...*





The different growth rates between the States and Territories largely reflect the pattern of net interstate migration. In 1990, significant net interstate migration gains occurred in Queensland, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory (30,700, 4,700 and 2,800 respectively). Less significant gains were registered by South Australia and Tasmania (1,700 and 1,000 respectively), while net losses occurred in New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory (-29,200, -9,800 and -1,900 respectively).

For further information, order the publication *Australian Demographic Statistics* (3101.0), or contact Paul Nelson on (06) 252 6021.

First look at student/teacher ratios

Results from the 1990 Schools Census show that there were 3,041,657 full-time students attending school last July, with 2,193,347 (72%) in government schools and 848,310 (28%) attending non-government schools.

For the first time, the ABS Schools publication contains tables on student/teaching staff ratios, and student/total school staff ratios. Student/teaching staff ratios ranged from 13.6 students per teacher in the Northern Territory to 16.3 in New South Wales, with the average across Australia being 15.3. These figures should not be used as a measure of class size.

As at July 1990, there were 10,007 schools operating in Australia. Three-quarters of these were government schools employing the full-time equivalent of 146,477 teaching staff and 31,779 non-teaching staff. Non-government schools employed the full-time equivalent of 52,737 teaching staff and 13,424 non-teaching staff.

Among other findings, the Schools Census revealed that:

- The apparent retention rate to Year 12 increased in all States and Territories between 1989 and 1990, with the national rate rising from 60.3 per cent to 64.0 per cent, and;
- Almost three-quarters of teaching staff in primary schools were female, compared with a roughly even distribution of males and females in secondary schools.

SCHOOLS, JULY 1990

	Government schools	Non-government schools	All schools
Schools	7,490	2,517	10,007
Students	2,193,347	848,310	3,041,657
Teaching staff	146,477	52,737	199,214
Non-teaching staff	31,779	13,424	45,204

The statistics were collected through the National Schools Statistics Collection of the Australian Education Council School Statistics Committee, of which the ABS is a member.

For further information, order the publication *Schools, Australia* (4221.0), or contact John Sever on (06) 252 6304.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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(06) 252 6104

All the week's releases: 5 to 11 June

General

- Statistics Weekly, 6 June 1991 (1318.0; \$4.00)
- Economic Indicators, Vic., May 1991 (1307.2; \$6.00)

Social statistics

- Schools, SA, 1990 (4221.4; \$10.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, 1989-90 (5204.0; \$20.00)
- Personal Finance, Aust., March 1991 (5642.0; \$5.50)

Labour statistics and prices

- The Labour Force, Aust., May 1991, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.00)

- The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, May 1991 (6271.0; \$65.00)

- Import Price Index, Aust., March Qtr 1991 (6414.0; \$9.00)

- House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, March Qtr 1991 (6416.0; \$25.00)

Agriculture

- Livestock Products, Aust., April 1991 (7215.0; \$7.00)

- Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, NSW, 1989-90 (7501.1; \$15.00)

- Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, WA, 1989-90 Season (7503.5; \$15.00) — new issue

Secondary industry and distribution

- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, March 1991 (8358.0; \$10.00)

- Retail Trade, Aust., March 1991 Corrigendum (8501.01)

- Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, April 1991 (8504.0; \$10.00)

- Building Approvals, Qld, April 1991 (8731.3; \$10.00)

- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., March 1991 (8741.6; \$3.50)

Transport

- Interstate Road Freight Movement, Aust., March Qtr 1991 (9214.0; \$5.50)

- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., April 1991 (9303.0; \$10.00)

- Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, March 1991 (9303.5; \$7.00)

- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., April 1991 (9303.6; \$5.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 25 June 1991

June

- [13] Quarterly Indexes of Industrial Production, Australia, March 1991 (8125.0; \$10.00)
- [14] Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked, March 1991 (5222.0; \$9.00)
- [17] Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, March Quarter 1991, Preliminary (8750.0; \$10.00)
- [19] Housing Finance For Owner Occupation, Australia, April 1991 (5609.0; \$10.00)
- [21] Export Price Index, Australia, April 1991 (6405.0; \$7.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, April 1991 (6407.0; \$10.00)
- [24] Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, April 1991 (6408.0; \$7.50)
- [25] Manufacturing Production, Australia, May 1991, Preliminary, (8301.0; \$10.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
11 June 1991

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 90)*	-2.4	-28.6	-15.3	-11.7	2.8	39.0	n.a.	n.a.	-8.6
Retail turnover (Mar. 91) (trend estimate)	3.2	-1.7	4.2	9.6	3.2	9.4	n.a.	10.8	3.1
New motor vehicle registrations (Apr. 91)*	-14.5	-49.8	11.4	-24.6	-14.6	-19.1	-9.6	20.3	-21.5
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Apr. 91)	-1.3	-12.1	16.1	3.6	14.1	10.7	-26.8	-13.8	2.7
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr 90)	2.5	-11.1	-23.0	9.6	-25.5	-24.7	11.4	3.3	-8.5
Employed persons (May 91)*	0.0	-5.9	-2.5	-1.0	-0.4	-3.9	-2.1	-0.1	-2.3
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 90)	4.7	5.3	4.8	6.0	3.9	4.2	5.4	4.2	4.9
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Nov. 90)	6.8	7.1	9.9	8.3	7.9	6.6	9.8	8.7	7.5
Population (Dec. 90)	1.1	1.3	2.3	1.1	2.2	1.1	1.2	2.5	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Dec. qtr 90)	-2.3	0.9	8.0	-0.7	0.3	29.3	32.8	4.6	2.8

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

The latest ...

Key national indicators - consolidated to 11 June 1991

	Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on			
		Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year		
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 91	91,167 61,295	95,056 64,415	-0.4 0.1	1.0 -1.5
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 91	5,736 4,334	6,463 4,880	-2.9 -3.4	-11.6 -11.5
Expected new capital expenditure			Three months to Jun. 91	7,300	n.a.	n.a.	-10.4
Retail turnover	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. 91 Mar. qtr 91	7,255.8 14,274.7	7,555.7 15,221.5	0.3 0.3	3.8 -1.4
New motor vehicle registrations	no.		Apr. 91	40,274	42,313	8.2	-21.5
Dwelling unit approvals			Apr. 91	10,045	10,241	0.3	-6.9
Value of all building approvals		\$m		1,516	1,484	-8.6	-26.4
Value of total building work done	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	"	Dec. qtr 90	7,391 4,654	7,069 4,452	0.5 0.1	-8.5 -10.9
Manufacturers' sales	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	31,937 22,162	34,424 23,833	-1.9 -1.5	-4.7 -7.0
Expected manufacturers' sales			Three months to June 91	34,850	n.a.	n.a.	-6.2
Labour							
Employed persons	'000		May 91	7,738.8	7,715.0	-0.1	-2.3
Unemployment rate †	%		"	9.5	9.4	-0.4	3.0
Participation rate †	%		"	63.5	63.2	-0.4	-0.5
Job vacancies	'000		Nov. 90	34.1	35.4	-27.8	-45.6
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours		"	1.3	1.3	-1.9	-16.2
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 90	214.1	n.a.	-0.2	4.9
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industry	1984-85 = 100.0		Mar. 91	119.1	n.a.	-2.0	-2.0
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0		Mar. 91	110.5	n.a.	-0.7	2.3
Company profits before income tax	\$m		Mar. qtr 91	2,266	2,762	-29.1	-32.0
Average weekly earnings (preliminary) (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$		Feb. 91	564.30	n.a.	1.6	7.5
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		Apr. 91	11.30	n.a.	-0.30	-3.75
10-year Treasury bonds †	"		"	11.00	n.a.	-0.40	-2.8
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m		Apr. 91	4,299	4,160	-7.1	0.8
Imports of merchandise	"		"	4,040	4,227	9.5	3.3
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"		"	259	-67	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)	"		"	-71	-408	n.a.	-49.5
Balance on current account (c)	"		"	-1,246	-1,609	-69.7	-7.1
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 91	n.a.	98.9	-3.3	-6.5
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 91		133,491	n.a.	2.6	3.2
Nets foreign liabilities	"			177,337	n.a.	2.9	6.7
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
SUS	per \$A		Apr. 91	0.7798	n.a.	1.0	2.1
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	59.6	n.a.	2.4	-1.7
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million		Dec. 90	17.2	n.a.	0.4	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000		Dec. 90	253	176	0.7	4.1

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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